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EDT 3010

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07-05-2011

Web 2.0

Web 2.0 is a very convenient way for people to interact and do activities through the internet. I think this new technology is very helpful to people since it’s very accessible anywhere and anytime as long as you have internet. This means that we are able to produce work and social interaction at anytime too. It is definitely a helpful tool to know and use in education to integrate technology and also keeping up-to-date with today’s generation. When teachers use tools like the web 2.0 they engage the students by providing context in a more interesting and appealing way to today’s generation. They are so hooked on technology that educational material seems interesting to them just by the way it is presented to them.

When learning about some of the web 2.0 services that are offered in the internet, I liked a couple of them that I will definitely use in my classroom. The web 2.0 tools that I will use to integrate this technology in my classroom will be; YouTube, Prezi, Slide, SecondLife, Podcasting, and Blogger.

**YouTube** is known for the access it gives people to view videos and upload videos of any kind. I will use this tool to provide my students with tutorials on how to use different programs/tools and how to produce certain assignments. Also I would like to use this as a presentation tool. I would like my students to have the option of uploading a video of a play or something of that nature to present material to the class.

**Prezi** is known for being a fun and cool tool to do presentations. It is a little similar to Power Point except that all the information pops at you and it’s not in slides it’s just in one presentation. It is a very cool tool to use in education. I plan on using this as an option for presentations from students. Also I would like to use this with the lower grades to do read-aloud sight words, like the “no-excuse” words. I can present words that they have to know in a creative way and I can even include pictures to match these words and this way they it will be easier for them to remember and learn them.

**Slide** is known for also being a presentation tool but it focuses on pictures and special effects. I want to use this tool to create stories. I would like to have the students come up with interesting stories that they would like to tell their peers and represent the events in the stories with cool pictures and special effects to make it interesting.

**SecondLife** is known to be social network tool. It provides users with a 3-D virtual world that is inhabited by the users. Lots of students are using this tool to communicate lessons/course material, and meet each other. I would like to use this tool to keep in touch with my students, and to have more access to their learning. I would like to see what they say about the course materials that I present and in this way I would be able to edit my lessons to a more productive and interesting material.

**Podcasting** is becoming more and more famous every day, especially by educators. It is a tool used to record short audio files and combine them with voice, kind of like a commercial on the radio. I would like to use this tool to record my lessons and lectures and be able to provide them to the students that are absent on certain days so that they can catch up a little bit on the stuff they missed. Also I would like to use this tool to record books, so that my students have more audio books, especially for my low readers, this will help them tons.

**Blogger** is known for serving users as an electronic journal. People can put in their thoughts and even pictures. To me this can be a “school face book” type of tool. I can use this tool to keep up with my student’s lives and be able to understand them better when they demonstrate certain behaviors. I would like to use this tool as a journal everyday and have students share anything that they want in here and they can upload pictures of events if they want. I would have a couple students a day share their product. This will help build a sense of community in the classroom while getting to know each student in a little more personal way. Also it might help them build confidence at school.

These are only some of the web 2.0 tools that I would like to use in my classroom, but there are so many more programs to explore and to use as well. All these tools will help me teach better and the students learn better. Some of these can even be combined for certain lessons; it’s all in your creativity. For example you can use Prezi and Slide to create a story with words for the students to follow and pictures to match the reading material all with special effects and everything. You can also combine a podcast with a presentation. You can join them together to have a better presentation of your material and you can even add sound effects. How cool is that?! You can use material form one social network and transfer it to another to present different thoughts and compare them. There’s just so much you can do and in so many ways that educators can integrate these things to be more effective and modern teachers.